

SENATE BILL 1672

By Robinson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 15,
Chapter 2, relative to honoring Adolph Thornton.

WHEREAS, Memphis rap legend Adolph Thornton, known professionally as Young Dolph, was an exemplary gentleman and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born on July 27, 1985, in Chicago, Illinois, Mr. Thornton was raised primarily by his grandmother in South Memphis from four years of age; he attended Hamilton High School as a teenager; and

WHEREAS, Young Dolph began his music career in 2008 when he released his first mixtape *Paper Route Campaign*; two years later, he formally established his independent record label Paper Route Empire and subsequently released *Welcome 2 Dolph World*; and

WHEREAS, Young Dolph's star continued to rise through a distribution deal with Empire Distribution and through collaborations with the likes of O.T. Genasis and Key Glock. His seventh album, *Rich Slave*, released in August 2020, peaked at number four of the *Billboard* 200; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his successful career as a musician, Young Dolph was known in his hometown for his philanthropy; he donated \$50,000 to his alma mater and gave motivational speeches to students. He donated and delivered Thanksgiving turkeys across Memphis, including the Hickory Hills, Westwood, South Memphis, LeMoyne Gardens, and Castalia neighborhoods. Mr. Thornton also visited with patients and staff at the West Clinic to acknowledge the beautiful work they do; and

WHEREAS, Young Dolph's legacy of service also included hosting an annual Back to School Block Party, where he donated school supplies and backpacks to youth. Further, he

hosted Mother's Day brunches for victims of domestic violence and individuals dealing with substance abuse. Additionally, Mr. Thornton generously contributed to the Tennessee Arts Academy Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Adolph Thornton was deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thornton was killed on November 17, 2021, and leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity, probity, compassion, and loyalty in his life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 15, Chapter 2, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

November 17 of each year is to be observed as the "Adolph Thornton Day of Service," to celebrate the memory, music, and community service contributions of Adolph "Young Dolph" Thornton and to encourage Tennesseans to help others. This day is not a legal holiday as defined in § 15-1-101.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.